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# 2018 Best Jobs: Florida doesn't have many (Tampa Bay has fewer)

By [Malena Carollo](#)



U.S. News & World Report just put out its annual rankings for "Best Jobs of 2018" and the Tampa Bay area was ranked 117th out of the 206 highest-paying metro areas. | [Times file, 2014]

Florida may have an enviable unemployment rate these days. But when it comes to high-paying jobs, the Sunshine State's economy inspires less jealousy.

In the U.S. News & World Report's rankings for "Best Jobs of 2018" released Wednesday, Florida's metropolitan areas failed to crack the top 50 hubs for jobs that offer good salaries, future opportunities and work-life balance.

The report ranked 206 regions — and the Tampa Bay area clocked in at No. 117.

The metro areas were ordered based on their concentration of "best" jobs. Naples was the highest-ranking Florida region at No. 55, a far cry from the California-dominated top five. San Francisco claimed the No. 1 spot.

"Health care jobs are prominent on our list year after year and are predicted to continue growing rapidly within the job market by 2026," said U.S. News & World Report careers reporter Rebecca Koenig in a prepared statement.

[Related coverage: Florida jobs recover from Irma, unemployment rate drops](#)



[According to the list](#), the No. 1 best occupation was software developer. Dentists claimed the No. 2 spot, followed by physician assistants, nurse practitioners and orthodontists.

The "best" designation is based on seven factors: an occupation's median salary, employment rate, 10-year growth volume, growth percentage over a decade, future job prospects, work-life balance and stress level.

Though Florida may lag behind other states, its metro areas stood out as hubs for these occupations: Obstetrician and gynecologists in Tampa, veterinarians in Naples, architects in West Palm Beach and physicians in Cape Coral.

#### Best jobs overall

1. Software developer
2. Dentist
3. Physician assistant
4. Nurse practitioner
5. Orthodontist

#### Best-paying regions

1. San Francisco
2. San Jose, Calif.
3. San Rafael, Calif.
4. New York City
5. Anchorage, Ak.

#### Best-paying Florida regions

55. Naples
77. West Palm Beach
85. Cape Coral
97. Jacksonville
101. Miami
116. Tallahassee
117. Tampa
178. Orlando

## Best-paying jobs

1. Anesthesiologist
2. Surgeon
3. Obstetrician and gynecologist
4. Oral and maxillofacial surgeon
5. Orthodontist

## Best health care jobs

1. Dentist
2. Physician assistant
3. Nurse practitioner
4. Orthodontist
5. Pediatrician

## Best business jobs

1. Statistician
2. Actuary
3. Mathematician
4. Cost estimator
5. Business operations manager

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